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5/13/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
Re.: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

Dear Sir or Miss,

I am writing in regard to the issue of irradiated food labeling. I feel very strongly that any food or consumable item including fruits, vegetables and processed foods that contain irradiated food ingredients should have labeling that alerts the consumer. It is of utmost importance that consumers be told when food has been irradiated so they can exercise their freedom and right to choose. To take away this right is to begin to undo all of the work that has been done in food labeling and would set a very bad and destructive precedent. So I urge the FDA to require that all forms of food that have been irradiated be clearly labeled with this information. Furthermore, that labeling should contain explicit language that contains the word irradiated, irradiation or radiation and not contain misleading or confusing terms or language.

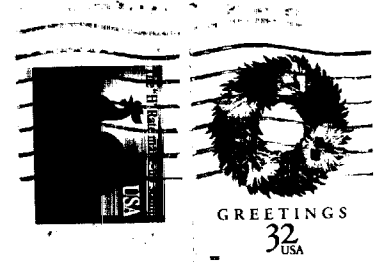
Sincerely,

Ray D. Birdsall III

98N 1038

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